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**Cc:** Brush, Jason[Brush.Jason@epa.gov];  
Scott\_Richardson@fws.gov[Scott\_Richardson@fws.gov]  
**From:** Karen Fogas  
**Sent:** Fri 9/18/2015 11:22:05 PM  
**Subject:** Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Detected Near Proposed Villages at Vigneto Development

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Dear Ms. Diebolt and Mr. Miller:

Through a contract with Coronado National Forest, the Tucson Audubon Society recently concluded a survey for the threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) in major drainages of 8 sky island mountain ranges in southeast Arizona. We anticipate our final report detailing the results of our survey will be complete in early October, 2015, at which time we will provide it to you.

We are writing to inform you that our survey resulted in detections of active Western yellow-billed Cuckoo territories in both Guindani and French Joe Canyons in the Whetstone Mountains. The detections in Guindani Canyon are located approximately 1.2-1.5 miles to the south / southwest of the Village at Vigneto's planning boundary. The detections in French Joe Canyon are located approximately 3.6 miles to the southwest of the planning boundary.

This new scientific information is important for the Corps to consider as it re-evaluates the Section 404 Permit granted to Whetstone and determines its regulatory responsibilities in relation to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. We await the Corps' response to our formal request that the Corps conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement and consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Village at Vigneto's potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and migratory birds.

Please see our detailed comments on the draft critical habitat proposal for the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which emphasizes the importance of lands and waters that provide stopover sites, habitat for foraging, dispersal and habitat connectivity, to include key tributaries, confluences, uplands and distinct sky island habitats. See:  
<http://tucsonaudubon.org/cuckoo>

Sincerely,

Karen Fogas

Executive Director

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